

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having proximal and distal sides, comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces including central and border portions;

a discrete skin adherent facing layer comprising a cross-linked silicone gel, the facing layer having a proximal surface, and a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said facing layer defining a region having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern; and

a discrete pressure sensitive adhesive layer applied directly to the facing layer on at least a segment of a the proximal surface thereof only surrounding the region of the apertures;

wherein the facing layer and the adhesive layer are contiguous and combine to define the entirety of the proximal side of the dressing;

wherein the adhesive layer has greater skin adherence properties than the elastomeric gel of the facing layer.

Claim 2. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures of the facing layer are generally

located along a central portion thereof corresponding to the central portion of the absorbent core.

Claim 3. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 2, wherein a border portion of the facing layer generally corresponding to the border portion of the absorbent core is substantially free of said apertures.

Claim 4. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is located along at least one segment of a border portion of the facing layer corresponding to the border portion of the absorbent core.

Claim 5. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 4, wherein the adhesive layer is applied to at least two opposed sides of the border portion of the facing layer.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is only applied near the peripheral border of the facing layer.

Claim 8. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures of the facing layer are provided only at a central portion of the facing layer corresponding to a central portion of the absorbent core, said adhesive layer is applied in a region bordering the central portion of the facing layer.

Claim 9. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is generally apertured.

Claim 10. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is an acrylate glue.

Claim 11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having proximal and distal sides, ~~consisting~~ comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces  
including central and border portions;

a discrete skin adherent facing layer comprising a cross-linked silicone gel, the facing layer having a proximal surface, and a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said facing layer defining a region having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern; and

a discrete pressure sensitive adhesive layer applied directly to the facing layer on at least a segment of a the proximal surface thereof surrounding the region of the apertures;

wherein the facing layer and the adhesive layer are contiguous and combine to define the entirety of the proximal side of the dressing;

wherein the adhesive layer is located along at least one  
segment of a border portion of the facing layer.

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 13, wherein the adhesive layer is applied to at least two opposed sides of the border portion of the facing layer.

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer has greater skin adherence properties than the elastomeric gel of the facing layer.

Claim 16. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer is only applied around a peripheral border of the facing layer.

Claim 17. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the apertures of the facing layer are provided only at a central portion of the facing layer, said adhesive layer is applied in a region bordering the central portion of the facing layer.

Claim 18. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer is generally apertured.

Claim 19. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the proximal surface of the facing layer is generally planar.

Claim 20. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the distal surface of the facing layer is generally planar.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having proximal and distal sides, comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces including central and border portions;

a facing layer comprising cross-linked silicone, the facing layer having a proximal surface, and a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said facing layer defining a region having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern; and

a discrete pressure sensitive adhesive layer applied directly to the facing layer on at least a segment of a the proximal surface thereof surrounding the region of the apertures;

wherein the facing layer and the adhesive layer are contiguous and combine to define the entirety of the proximal side of the dressing;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive layer does not occlude the apertures of the facing layer.

Claim 22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 21, wherein the apertures of the facing layer are substantially equally spaced and generally uniform in shape.

Claim 24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having proximal and distal sides, comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces including central and border portions;

a discrete skin adherent facing layer comprising a cross-linked silicone gel, the facing layer having a proximal surface, and a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said facing layer defining a region having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern; and

a discrete pressure sensitive adhesive layer including at least one localized segment applied directly to the facing layer;

wherein the facing layer and the adhesive layer are contiguous and combine to define the entirety of the proximal side of the dressing such that the proximal side of the dressing consists both the at least one localized segment of the adhesive layer and at least one exposed region of the facing layer;

wherein the apertures of the facing layer are substantially equally spaced and generally uniform in shape.